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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of)
Thomas A. Follo et al) Examiner: E.F. Landrum
Title: RAZOR CARTRIDGE)
Serial No.: 10/816,657) Group Art Unit: 3724
Filed On: April 2, 2004) Confirmation No. 9671
)
) (Docket No.: 6579-0439)

Middletown, Connecticut, April 6, 2006

Facsimile No.: 571-273-8300
Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.111

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed March 8, 2006, having a period for response set to expire on April 8, 2006. In the Office Action, the Examiner has required the election of a single Group of disclosed inventions for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted. The Examiner alleges that the claims of this application are directed to three groups of patentably distinct inventions, viz., Group I (drawn to the exposure of the interior razor-blades being substantially the same); Group II (drawn to the overall exposure of each blade decreasing) and Group III (drawn to the overall exposure of each razor-blade increasing).

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In addition, the Examiner states that if Group I is selected, further election is required based on one of the following sets:

- (a) the overall exposure of the first razor-blade is positive,
- (b) the overall exposure of the first razor-blade is negative, and
- (c) the overall exposure of the first razor-blade is neutral.

The Examiner also states that if Group II is selected, further election is required based on one of the following sets:

- (a) the overall exposure of each razor-blade is negative,
- (b) the overall exposure of each razor-blade is positive, and
- (c) the overall exposure of the first razor-blade is positive, and the overall exposure of the last razor-blade is negative.

In addition, the Examiner states that regardless of which of Groups I-III is selected, further election is required based on one of the following sub-sets:

- (d) the overall exposure of the last razor-blade is positive,
- (e) the overall exposure of the last razor-blade is neutral, and
- (f) the overall exposure of the last razor-blade is negative.

Applicant hereby elects Group I, set (b), sub-set (d) (i.e., drawn to the exposure of the interior razor-blades being substantially the same, the overall exposure of the first razor-blade being negative, and the overall exposure of the last razor-blade being positive) for prosecution. The claims readable on Group I, set (b), sub-set (d) are claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 13, 16, 20, and 23-27.

Applicant understands that upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR §1.141.

Applicant believes that the foregoing election fully complies with the Office Action and that all claims of the application are allowable. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Applicant believes that no fees are due with the submission of this Response. If, however, it is deemed that any fees are in fact due, they may be charged to Deposit Account No. 503342 maintained by Applicant's attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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